



## NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)  
2433 N.W. 24<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln, NE 68524-1801

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2014, 4:50 p.m.

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### Tornado hits Coleridge Tuesday evening; Cleanup Efforts Continue in Pilger

After the confirmed EF4 tornado in Pilger, northeastern Nebraska has been hit with another tornado near Coleridge in Cedar County. One residence has been destroyed and lesser damage has been reported to other homes. One injury occurred and the individual has been released. NEMA will continue to monitor the Coleridge area for damages.

Additional rainfall is forecasted in northeastern Nebraska and along the Missouri River. The National Weather Service warns that the Missouri River is reaching flood stages in the following cities: Blair, Omaha, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Brownville and Rulo. NEMA will continue to monitor river levels and participate in daily flood updates.

Additional information, photos, and videos can be found on the following NEMA sites: <https://www.facebook.com/nema.page>, <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube>, and <https://twitter.com/NEMAtweets>.

#### **National Weather Service**

The damage caused in Cedar County was an EF2 tornado that was approximately two miles wide. The tornado began eight miles northwest of Coleridge and then moved east. The length of the path of the tornado is yet to be determined. NWS has staff on the ground in the Coleridge area to assess the storm event.

#### **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**

A NEMA field team and the NEMA mobile emergency operations center arrived in Pilger on Tuesday morning to work with local emergency management staff on recovery efforts. The emergency operations center at NEMA in Lincoln is staffed 24/7. The NEMA field team remains in Pilger working on the response effort. Another NEMA team is assessing damage in the rural area in the towns affected by Monday night's storm.

NEMA encourages residents to continue following the instructions of local officials who are still working to assist individuals and families in the impacted areas.

Citizens are urged to avoid the Pilger area if possible to keep roads open for emergency response.

### Red Cross

The Wisner shelter (housed in the Wisner-Pilger Jr./Sr. High) will remain open until further notice. The shelter is unable to house pets, but the Red Cross has boarding options available to those in need. Health services are available for those dealing with lost medications, lost durable medical equipment, and to assist with injuries. Meals are being provided by the Salvation Army.

### NE VOAD (Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) Volunteers

NE VOAD is coordinating with various organizations that are volunteering to assist. According to Susan Epps, NE VOAD Chair, volunteers may arrive at the Wisner-Pilger Jr./Sr. High (801 18<sup>th</sup> St.) on the west edge of Wisner at 6:30 a.m. to register. Registration for the day will end at 3 p.m. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Volunteers will work in Pilger between the 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Volunteers **MUST** check-in each day at the Wisner-Pilger Jr./Sr. High – volunteers from a previous day will **NOT** be allowed into Pilger without going to the school first. Volunteers who arrive directly in Pilger will **NOT** be allowed to enter the town.

Volunteers will be bused in to Pilger and separated into groups to perform debris removal. Volunteers must have a photo ID and are encouraged to wear sturdy work shoes, long pants, hats, work gloves, safety glasses and bring insect repellent and sunscreen (lunch will be provided). Volunteers are advised to stay hydrated as temperatures in the area are expected to reach into the 90s.

### Donations

At this time, monetary donations are the best way to help the citizens in Stanton County. There is no facility available in Pilger, Stanton, or surrounding communities to collect and store donations of items. Multiple funds have been setup for the communities of Pilger and Stanton. The funds listed below are the funds that NEMA is aware of at this time; should additional funds become available, additional information will be provided. Please contact NEMA with additional fund information to be added to future news releases.

For Pilger, financial donations can be made at any Midwest Bank branch, referencing the “Pilger Emergency Fund.” Checks with a note referencing the “Pilger Emergency Fund” may also be mailed to:

Pilger Emergency Fund  
Midwest Bank, Norfolk Branch  
2501 West Benjamin Ave.  
PO Box 886  
Norfolk, NE 68702-0886

A fund has been setup for the six rural Stanton families displaced from their homes. Financial donations for these specific families can be made at the Stanton State Bank, referencing the “Stanton Tornado Relief Fund.” Checks with a note referencing the “Stanton Tornado Relief Fund” may also be mailed to:

Stanton Tornado Relief Fund  
Stanton State Bank  
PO Box 437  
Stanton, NE 68779

For Pilger and Stanton tornado victims, financial donations can be made at the Stanton State Bank, referencing the “Pilger/Stanton Tornado Relief Fund.” Checks with a note referencing the “Pilger/Stanton Tornado Relief Fund” may also be mailed to:

Pilger/Stanton Tornado Relief Fund  
Stanton State Bank  
PO Box 437  
Stanton, NE 68779

Those who would like to help by making a donation to American Red Cross Disaster Relief can do so by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS or texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

### **Nebraska National Guard**

Twenty members of the Nebraska Army National Guard are currently on state active duty in Pilger, in response to Monday afternoon's severe storms.

The Soldiers are members of the Norfolk and Wayne-based 189<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company. The Soldiers are currently assisting local officials in maintaining public safety in and around Pilger.

### **Nebraska State Fire Marshal**

State Fire Marshal, Jim Heine, has received inquiries from homeowners wishing to begin burning houses destroyed by the storm. He urged residents to contact their insurance agents before proceeding.

Fire Marshal staff continue to be available to perform damage assessment of commercial and residential structures. Contact the State Fire Marshal's main office at 402-471-2027 for more information.

The Fire Marshal encourages volunteers to stay hydrated in the heat. Watch your step and use extreme caution in the area as nails and metals are strewn about.

### **Nebraska Department of Agriculture**

Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach continues to encourage producers who suffered livestock losses due to the tornado to keep detailed records documenting those losses as they continue to work to address storm damage.

Documentation could include third-party verification of the loss, such as a statement from a veterinarian or county extension agent, photographs, or receipts for expenses associated with carcass removal / disposal.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) to determine what type of documentation might best fit their circumstances. Federal programs such as the Livestock Indemnity Program are available for qualified producers.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has monetary assistance available to help producers affected by the tornado to properly dispose of animal carcasses through a special Livestock Mortality Initiative through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Livestock producers who experienced death losses are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office to sign up for the Initiative and to work with NRCS staff to develop a recovery plan that

best meets the needs of their operation. NRCS can also assist in windbreak repair, replacing fences and repairing terraces and other conservation practices. Interested producers need to contact the local NRCS office as soon as possible.

NDA has sent a Livestock Emergency Disease Response System (LEDRS) trailer with supplies to the affected area. NDA staff members are helping to coordinate relief efforts from the State Emergency Operations Center and working with sister state agencies such as the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to assure the state is addressing producer needs.

Ibach also encourages individuals that have sustained crop damage in recent weeks to share that information with their local Farm Service Agency as well for any additional federal programs that might be available.

Counselors are available to those individuals that are feeling stressed and overwhelmed by the circumstances. Those individuals are encouraged to call the Rural Response Hotline at 800-464-0258.

### **Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality**

Jay Ringenberg, Deputy Director of DEQ, advised that his agency is making visits to feedlots today to assess damages and work with producers on livestock disposal. Over 140,000 chickens have been lost in the storm. His agency is working on proper disposal. Rolloffs are being delivered to the area today to assist with disposal.

Many center pivots are down and with additional rain in the area livestock waste ponds may be filling up and pumps may be required to draw down the ponds. Wastewater facilities are up and running in Pilger.

Producers who need assistance with livestock disposal may contact DEQ at 402-471-7436.

### **Nebraska Department of Roads**

Highway 15 remains closed from Hwy 275 (north of Pilger) to Hwy 32 (south of Pilger). This highway will most likely remain closed through June 18 for storm response activity. US Highway 275 is open.

### **Nebraska Energy Office**

The Nebraska Energy Office has a staff member in the State Emergency Operations Center gathering information. Gathering information entails contacting and coordinating with utilities and associations to obtain the number of meters out of service, the number of damaged poles, and the miles of transmission lines down and when restoration could be expected. The Energy Office also has a staff member conducting State business in the Pilger area. The staff member has been tasked with monitoring activities in the Pender and Fremont areas. The staff located in the Energy Office is tasked with supporting the staff at the State Emergency Operations Center and in the field.

### **Nebraska State Patrol**

The Nebraska State Patrol's (NSP) Mobile Command Post remains on scene with troopers continuing to provide security for Pilger. NSP is coordinating vehicular access to the community for residents and volunteers. NSP personnel continue to provide assets and resources as requested.

### **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health is conducting a Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) Booster Shot Clinic for people who are not up-to-date with their tetanus shots or who are not sure about their immunization status and are helping with the Pilger Tornado clean-up. The clinic will be held today:

Wednesday, June 18th

1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Pilger Pool Bath House

Anyone wanting to receive a shot should bring their immunization record if possible.

The Northeast Public Health Department is advising people to check with their physicians to determine if they need to receive a vaccination. The Northeast Public Health Department is not providing immunizations at this time. For information on food safety and other local public health concerns, please visit the Northeast Public Health Department's website:

<http://www.nnphd.org/>.

If people have public health-related questions, they can contact their local health department. Here is a link to a list of local health departments in the state:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/contacts.pdf>

The Pilger water supply is still under a "Boil" alert until further notice.

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